Export of cereals

3308. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to export more than two lakh tonnes of cereals during 1991-92; and

(b) if so, the details of surplus cereals produced in the country and the cereals likely to be exported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The estimated production of cereals for the year 1990-91 is 162.17 million metric tonnes. Only marginal surplus is available for export.

During 1991-92, eight lakh tonnes of wheat and seven lakh tonnes of non-basmati rice are likely to be exported. Besides, a ceiling of one lakh tonnes of wheat products has been released for export during the year.

Increase in minimum support price of wheat

3309. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Agricultural Costs and Prices Commission has recommended an increase of Rs. 20/- per quintal in the minimum support price of wheat for the 1991-92 season;

(b) if so, whether Government have accepted this recommendation; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) The Report of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices on Price Policy for the Rabi Crops of 1991-92 to be marketed in 1992-93 is at present under consideration of the Government.

Starvation deaths in the country

3310. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times', New Delhi dated the 9th October, 1991 under the captioned "11000 Indian die of hunger every day";

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what steps Government have contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report is not based on facts. There are no reports from the State Governments regarding Starvation deaths.

(c) Does not arise.

Uniform pricing policy on fertilizers

3311. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have released foreign exchange worth Rs. 4,500 crores for the import of fertilizers to meet the shortage there of during the Rabi and Kharif seasons next year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the dual pricing policy on fertilizers is causing great concern for the farmers; and

(c) whether Government propose to bring a uniform pricing policy on fertilizers, if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN):